

# News

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## **RESULTS OF PAY SURVEY FOR THE CORPUS CHRISTI, TEXAS METROPOLITAN AREA**

Workers in the Corpus Christi, Texas metropolitan area averaged \$14.51 per hour during September 1999, according to a new survey released by the U.S. Department of Labor's Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS). Regional Commissioner Bob Gaddie reported that white-collar workers averaged \$17.25 per hour and accounted for 50 percent of the workers studied. Blue-collar workers averaged \$14.25 per hour and represented 29 percent of the workers, while the remaining 21 percent worked in service occupations and earned \$8.16 per hour. (See table 1.)

The new National Compensation Survey (NCS) presents straight-time earnings for all occupations in establishments with 50 or more employees in private industry and State and local governments. It excludes agricultural establishments, private households, the self-employed, and the Federal Government. The survey studied 95 firms representing 64,000 workers in the Corpus Christi metropolitan area, which includes Nueces and San Patricio Counties. Approximately 67 percent of those represented worked in private industry.

In the Corpus Christi metropolitan area, average hourly wages were published for more than 30 detailed occupations. (See table 1.) Among white-collar workers, engineers, architects, and surveyors averaged \$35.10 per hour, registered nurses 18.61, social workers \$12.93, and secretaries \$10.85. Blue-collar occupations included plumbers, pipefitters, and steamfitters earning \$15.52 per hour, truck drivers at \$9.35, and construction laborers making \$6.91 per hour. In the service occupations, cooks averaged \$6.60 per hour, nursing aides, orderlies and attendants, \$8.12 per hour, and janitors and cleaners \$7.53.

National Compensation Survey, Corpus Christi, TX, September 1999 (continued)

The survey also includes data for selected occupational characteristics. (See table 2.) For example, surveyed union employees had average hourly wages of \$17.01, while their non-union counterparts earned \$14.25. Workers paid on a time basis (wages are solely based on an hourly rate or salary) averaged \$14.48 per hour; whereas, incentive workers (wages are at least partially based on productivity payments) earned \$16.24. Average rates of pay are also available for levels of work within an occupation based on knowledge, skill, independent judgment, supervision received and other factors required on the job. The selected characteristics allow for comparison of occupations with similar requirements.

Data provided by the NCS may be used by businesses for establishing pay plans, making decisions concerning plant relocation, and in collective bargaining negotiations. Individuals may use such data to help choose potential careers. The NCS is part of a statistical program that will eventually integrate three separate surveys of wages and benefits into one comprehensive compensation program. The survey increases the amount of wage data available to businesses, employees, and the public, and reduces the time required of business establishments responding to BLS compensation surveys.

Complete survey results are contained in the National Compensation Survey, Corpus Christi, TX, September 1999, (Bulletin number 3100-06). Copies of survey tables are available on the Internet in both text and PDF formats at <http://stats.bls.gov/comhome.htm> and from the Bureau's fax-on-demand service by dialing 214-767-9613 and requesting documents 9510 and 9511. For further information or personal assistance contact the Dallas Regional Office at 214-767-6970. Bulletins may be purchased from the BLS Publications Sales Center, 230 South Dearborn Street, 9<sup>th</sup> Floor, Chicago, IL 60604. Telephone orders using MasterCard or Visa credit cards are accepted at 312-353-1880 between 8:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. Central Time.

(These tables are best viewed using a small to medium Internet font.)

Table 1. Mean hourly earnings (1) all workers(2): Selected occupations, private industry and State and local government, National Compensation Survey, Corpus Christi, TX, September 1999

Occupation (3)	Total		Private industry		State & local government	
	Mean	Relative error (4) (percent)	Mean	Relative error (4) (percent)	Mean	Relative error (4) (percent)
All.....	\$14.51	3.3	\$13.76	4.5	\$16.19	4.5
All excluding sales.....	14.73	3.4	14.02	4.6	16.19	4.5
White collar.....	17.25	4.3	16.17	6.6	18.78	4.7
White collar excluding sales.....	18.15	3.9	17.59	6.0	18.78	4.7
Professional specialty and technical.....	21.19	3.5	20.20	6.4	21.95	4.0
Professional specialty.....	22.67	3.7	22.01	7.8	23.05	3.7
Engineers, architects, & surveyors...	35.10	5.0	35.33	5.0	-	-
Mathematical & computer scientists...	26.45	17.6	-	-	-	-
Computer systems analysts and scientists.....	26.77	23.1	-	-	-	-
Natural scientists.....	-	-	-	-	-	-
Health related.....	19.66	5.9	19.85	6.5	-	-
Registered nurses.....	18.61	2.1	18.58	2.4	-	-
Teachers, college and university.....	-	-	-	-	-	-
Teachers, except college and university.....	25.86	1.9	-	-	25.86	1.9
Elementary school teachers.....	24.53	1.5	-	-	24.53	1.5
Secondary school teachers.....	26.00	0.8	-	-	26.00	0.8
Librarians, archivists, & curators...	-	-	-	-	-	-
Social, recreation, and religious workers.....	12.60	3.4	-	-	-	-
Social workers.....	12.93	3.4	-	-	-	-
Lawyers and judges.....	-	-	-	-	-	-
Writers, authors, entertainers, athletes, & professionals, nec.	13.80	20.4	13.80	20.4	-	-
Technical.....	15.10	8.4	16.39	10.0	11.93	9.9
Licensed practical nurses.....	13.68	10.4	-	-	-	-
Executive, administrative, & managerial..	26.70	7.6	27.91	8.6	24.50	16.0
Executives, administrators, and managers.....	30.15	9.6	32.33	12.7	27.25	15.7
Administrators, education and related fields.....	37.36	7.8	-	-	37.36	7.8
Managers & administrators, n.e.c...	37.99	13.2	38.45	13.7	-	-
Management related.....	20.09	6.0	21.80	4.5	-	-
Sales.....	11.23	15.1	11.23	15.1	-	-
Sales workers, other commodities...	11.15	21.6	11.15	21.6	-	-

Cashiers.....	7.40	10.9	7.40	10.9	-	-
Administrative support,						
including clerical.....	10.22	4.0	10.31	5.9	10.07	4.5
Secretaries.....	10.85	7.4	-	-	11.50	10.1
Records clerks, n.e.c.....	8.96	6.5	-	-	-	-
Bookkeepers, accounting and						
auditing clerk.....	8.72	3.4	8.68	4.6	-	-
General office clerks.....	10.75	10.8	11.99	19.1	9.88	8.0
Teachers' aides.....	9.96	3.3	-	-	9.96	3.3
Administrative support, n.e.c.....	9.42	4.8	9.16	6.1	-	-
Blue collar.....	14.25	4.1	14.41	4.3	12.50	14.7
Precision production, craft, and repair..	17.83	3.5	17.86	3.5	17.21	24.3
Heavy equipment mechanics.....	16.55	12.8	16.55	12.8	-	-
Mechanics and repairers, n.e.c.....	13.66	7.6	13.66	7.6	-	-
Plumbers, pipefitters, and						
steamfitters.....	15.52	6.7	15.61	6.7	-	-
Construction trades, n.e.c.....	15.45	14.9	15.45	14.9	-	-
Supervisors, production.....	24.12	14.0	22.89	21.5	-	-
Miscellaneous plant and system						
operators, n.e.c.....	21.87	3.3	21.87	3.3	-	-
Machine operators, assemblers,						
and inspectors.....	12.28	8.7	12.27	9.1	-	-
Laundrying and dry cleaning						
machine operators.....	7.26	11.2	6.56	6.0	-	-
Misc. machine operators, n.e.c.....	15.20	20.3	15.20	20.3	-	-
Transportation and material moving.....	10.37	4.9	10.84	5.2	8.91	5.4
Truck drivers.....	9.35	5.2	9.35	5.2	-	-
Handlers, equipment cleaners, helpers,						
and laborers.....	9.76	7.1	9.67	7.8	10.60	9.6
Construction laborers.....	6.91	1.2	-	-	-	-
Laborers, except construction, nec.	8.16	12.7	8.16	12.7	-	-
Service.....	8.16	5.9	6.50	5.3	10.70	7.1
Protective service.....	11.25	13.4	-	-	15.04	8.7
Food service.....	6.11	8.7	5.73	9.6	8.26	4.4
Cooks.....	6.60	6.6	-	-	-	-
Food counter, fountain, & related..	7.55	11.3	7.55	11.3	-	-
Food preparation, n.e.c.....	6.81	9.2	-	-	-	-
Health service.....	8.66	4.9	6.88	3.2	12.31	9.2
Health aides, except nursing.....	10.79	13.3	-	-	-	-
Nursing aides, orderlies,						
and attendants.....	8.12	5.8	6.82	3.2	-	-
Cleaning and building service.....	7.83	3.7	8.18	7.5	7.68	3.7
Janitors and cleaners.....	7.53	2.9	-	-	7.49	2.6
Personal service.....	6.90	7.2	5.80	8.3	7.99	8.5

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1 Earnings are the straight-time hourly wages or salaries paid to employees. They include

incentive pay, cost-of-living adjustments, and hazard pay. Excluded are premium pay for overtime, vacations, holidays, nonproduction bonuses, and tips. The mean is computed by totaling the pay of all workers and dividing by the number of workers, weighted by hours

2 All workers include full-time and part-time workers.

3 A classification system including about 480 individual occupations is used to cover all workers in the civilian economy. See appendix B for more information.

4 The relative standard error (RSE) is the standard error expressed as a percent of the estimate. It can be used to calculate a "confidence interval" around a sample estimate. For more information about RSEs, see appendix A.

NOTE: Dashes indicate that no data were reported or that data did not meet publication criteria, and n.e.c. (nec) means "not elsewhere classified." Overall occupational groups may include data for categories not shown separately.

Table 2. Selected worker characteristics: Mean hourly earnings (1) by occupational group(2), National Compensation Survey, Corpus Christi, TX, September 1999

Private industry and State and local government						
Occupational group (2)	Full-time workers (3)	Part-time workers (3)	Union (4)	Nonunion (4)	Time (5)	Incen- tive (5)
All occupations.....	\$15.08	\$5.92	\$17.01	\$14.25	\$14.48	\$16.24
All excluding sales.....	15.13	5.80	17.01	14.48	14.74	13.13
White collar.....	17.91	6.40	-	17.29	17.24	17.43
White-collar excluding sales.....	18.31	7.32	-	18.22	18.17	-
Professional specialty & technical.	21.23	-	-	21.17	21.19	-
Professional specialty.....	22.72	-	-	22.67	22.67	-
Technical.....	15.10	-	-	14.56	15.10	-
Executive, administrative, and managerial.....	26.70	-	-	26.70	26.70	-
Sales.....	13.91	-	-	11.23	9.80	17.93
Administrative support, including clerical.....	10.33	7.24	-	10.22	10.22	-
Blue collar.....	14.45	7.01	17.10	13.33	14.26	-
Precision production, craft, and repair.....	17.83	-	19.37	17.14	17.88	-
Machine operators, assemblers, and inspectors.....	12.28	-	-	12.00	12.28	-
Transportation & material moving... Handlers, equipment cleaners, helpers, and laborers....	10.60	-	-	10.37	10.01	-
10.06	-	-	8.77	9.76	-	
Service.....	8.62	5.06	-	7.64	8.16	-
RELATIVE ERROR (6) (percent)						
All occupations.....	3.3	7.9	5.5	3.7	3.4	19.6
All excluding sales.....	3.3	11.8	5.5	3.8	3.4	7.9
White collar.....	3.8	8.4	-	4.3	4.3	27.5
White-collar excluding sales.....	3.9	6.0	-	3.9	3.9	-
Professional specialty & technical.	3.5	-	-	3.6	3.5	-
Professional specialty.....	3.7	-	-	3.7	3.7	-
Technical.....	8.4	-	-	8.5	8.4	-
Executive, administrative, and managerial.....	7.6	-	-	7.6	7.6	-
Sales.....	9.5	-	-	15.1	16.6	29.2
Administrative support, including clerical.....	4.1	4.9	-	4.2	4.0	-

Blue collar.....	4.2	8.3	6.2	5.2	4.2	-
Precision production, craft, and repair.....	3.5	-	3.4	5.0	3.6	-
Machine operators, assemblers, and inspectors.....	8.7	-	-	10.5	8.7	-
Transportation & material moving...	5.1	-	-	5.1	4.7	-
Handlers, equipment cleaners, helpers, and laborers....	7.4	-	-	6.8	7.1	-
Service.....	5.7	13.8	-	4.7	5.9	-

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1 Earnings are the straight-time hourly wages or salaries paid to employees. They include incentive pay, cost-of-living adjustments, and hazard pay. Excluded are premium pay for overtime, vacations, holidays, nonproduction bonuses, and tips. The mean is computed by totaling the pay of all workers and dividing by the number of workers, weighted by hours.

2 A classification system including about 480 individual occupations is used to cover all workers in the civilian economy. See appendix B for more information.

3 Employees are classified as working either a full-time or a part-time schedule based on the definition used by each establishment. Therefore, a worker with a 35-hour-per-week schedule might be considered a full-time employee in one establishment, but classified as part-time in another firm, where a 40-hour week is the minimum full-time schedule.

4 Union workers are those whose wages are determined through collective bargaining.

5 Time workers' wages are based solely on an hourly rate or salary; incentive workers are those whose wages are at least partially based on productivity payments such as piece rates, commissions, and production bonuses.

6 The relative standard error (RSE) is the standard error expressed as a percent of the estimate. It can be used to calculate a "confidence interval" around a sample estimate. For more information about RSEs, see appendix A.

NOTE: Dashes indicate that no data were reported or data did not meet publication criteria.

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Table 3. Number of workers(1) represented by the survey, by occupational group (2),  
National Compensation Survey, Corpus Christi, TX, September 1999

Full-time and part-time workers:			
Occupational group (2)	All industries	Private industry	State and local government
All occupations.....	64,000	42,600	21,400
All excluding sales.....	59,400	38,000	21,400
White collar.....	32,100	17,800	14,300
White-collar excluding sales.....	27,500	13,200	14,300
Professional specialty and technical.....	14,500	5,400	9,200
Professional specialty.....	12,100	3,700	8,400
Technical.....	2,400	1,700	700
Executive, administrative, and managerial.....	3,800	2,400	1,400
Sales.....	4,600	4,600	-
Administrative support, including clerical.....	9,200	5,500	3,700
Blue collar.....	18,400	16,600	1,800
Precision production, craft, and repair.....	8,600	8,200	-
Machine operators, assemblers, and inspectors.....	3,700	3,500	-
Transportation and material moving.....	2,100	1,400	-
Handlers, equipment cleaners, helpers, & laborers...	4,000	3,600	-
Service.....	13,500	8,100	5,400

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1 The number of workers represented by the survey are rounded to the nearest 100.  
Estimates of the number of workers provide a description of size and composition of the  
labor force included in the survey. Estimates are not intended, however, for comparison to  
other statistical series to measure employment trends or levels. Both full-time and  
part-time workers were included in the survey.

2 A classification system including about 480 individual occupations is used to cover all  
workers in the civilian economy. See appendix B for more information.

NOTE: Dashes indicate that no data were reported or data did not meet publication criteria.



Table 4. Number of establishments represented by survey and the number studied by industry division and establishment employment size, Corpus Christi, TX, September 1999

Industry	Number of establish- ments rep- resented(1)	Number of establishments studied:				
		Total	50 - 99	100 workers or more:		
		studied	workers	Total	100-499 workers	500 workers or more
All industries.....	500	95	33	62	45	17
Private industry.....	400	72	29	43	34	9
Goods-producing industries..	100	23	7	16	11	5
Mining.....	(2)	1	1	-	-	-
Construction.....	(2)	9	3	6	5	1
Manufacturing.....	(2)	13	3	10	6	4
Service-producing industries	300	49	22	27	23	4
Tranportation & public						
utilities.....	100	6	3	3	2	1
Wholesale & retail trade.	100	15	7	8	8	-
Finance, insurance and						
real estate.....	(2)	3	1	2	2	-
Services.....	100	25	11	14	11	3
State and local government....	(2)	23	4	19	11	8

1 Number of establishments represented by the survey rounded to the nearest 100.

2 Number of establishments represented by the survey is fewer than 50.

NOTE: Dashes indicate that no data were reported. Overall industry and industry groups may include data for categories not shown separately.